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ABSTRACT

Changes in the Federal food stamp program have resulted in a reduction in the number of eligible people receiving needed food assistance and a weakening of the "safety net" that protects the needy from poverty, unemployment, and high medical costs. Blacks and Hispanic Americans appear to have been disproportionately affected by these changes. Analysis of statistical data from the United States Agriculture Department and the Census Bureau for 1980 through 1987 for the District of Columbia and the 34 states served by the Urban League indicates the following trends: (1) spending on the food stamp program declined 17.5 percent; (2) the number of food stamp recipients declined 7.4 percent; (3) only two-thirds of the persons currently eligible for food stamps are actually recipients; (4) the greatest decline in the number of recipients has occurred in those regions where the Black population is concentrated; and (5) the number of Blacks and Hispanic Americans living in poverty increased faster than the number of Whites living in poverty. The Urban League proposes a domestic version of the Marshall Plan, funded by reductions in the federal defense budet, as a means of renewing the war on poverty. A list of 35 references and 11 tables of statistical data are appended. (FMW)

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THE THINNING OF THE NET: AN ANALYSIS OF FOOD STAMPS, POPULATION CHANGE, AND POVERTY GROWTH

VO 027774

Prepared by:

National Planning and
Evaluation Department

JULY 1990

PREFACE

This paper is the second of a series of occasional papers developed by the National Urban League's Planning Department. This series, the **Strategic Issues Paper** series, is designed to provide the Urban League Movement and other organizations with background information on issues of importance to our constituency. The series is designed to stimulate dialogue inside and outside of the Urban League.

I hope you find this paper stimulating and I look forward to your responses.

John E. Jacob, President
and
Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Gracious thanks are also extended to Ms. Patricia Small and Ms. Catherine Louise Small for their patience and perserverance while this paper was being compiled.

As always, it is our working together that makes the difference.

Frank Lomax, III
Executive Vice President
and
Chief Operating Officer
National Urban League, Inc.

FOREWORD

Americans are often reminded of the presence of a safety net designed to shield the needy from the ravages of poverty, unemployment, and high medical costs. Our former President, Ronald Reagan, often spoke of protecting this net while reducing costs and exposing fraud. Whether he succeeded on any of these accounts is a matter of debate.

What is beyond debate is that the safety net has been thinned. While the number of Americans living in poverty has outstripped the overall population growth, entitlement programs such as food stamps have been reduced. This paper presents an overview of the food stamp program and examines the implications of changes in its number of recipients, overall population, and persons living in poverty. It concludes with a call for the Urban League Movement to renew the war on poverty with a domestic Marshall Plan.

Ken Small
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THE THINNING OF THE NET: AN ANALYSIS OF FOOD STAMPS, POPULATION CHANGE, AND POVERTY GROWTH

Introduction. In 1988, the National Urban League entered into a unique partnership with the United States Census Bureau. This partnership, the NUL/Census Compact, makes the National Urban League the recipient of a wealth of published, unpublished, and computer-based government data. With so much data at its disposal, the League is now capable of undertaking analyses heretofore unimagined.

This analysis represents such an effort. It is based on data from the Agriculture Department and the Census Bureau. It uses Agriculture Department data to examine changes in the number of food stamp recipients and expenditures. Census Bureau data is used to examine changes in the overall population and changes in the number of persons living in poverty. Specific attention is given to changes in persons living in poverty by race, ethnic origin, and age.

The data related to food stamp recipients has been disaggregated and reconstituted to include only states and territories where there are Urban League affiliates. Population and poverty data are for the nation overall. The data examined are for the years 1980 and 1987.

Background. The food stamp program program is one of fifteen food assistance programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Other USDA programs include the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the School Breakfast Program. Overall spending for these programs increased from $14.2 billion in 1980 to $20.4 billion in 1987.

Despite a 43.7 percent increase in spending in food assistance programs overall, several programs experienced a sharp reduction in support during the seven year period. The National School Lunch Program was cut by $525 million or 16.5 percent. The Special Milk Program experienced a cut of $130 million or 89.7 percent. The Nutrition Studies and Education Program was trimmed by $15 million or 68.2 percent.

Spending for the food stamp program increased 20.4 percent between 1980 and 1987, from $8.7 billion to $10.5 billion. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose some 37.9 percent during that same period. This means that the food stamp program witnessed an inflation-adjusted decline of about 17.5 percent.

The total number of food stamp recipients declined some 16.6 percent between 1980 and 1987, from 22.0 million to 18.4

million. At its inception in 1970, the program had 6.5 million participants. It reached its peak in during the recession year of 1981 with 22.2 million participants. The expansion of the program during the stagnant seventies and the recession of the early 1980s has been more of a boon for the food industry than needy individuals.

The food stamp program is unique in that it is an entitlement program which has a direct impact on a major segment of the economy, namely the food industry. While some may find this cynical, it must be noted that the program was not created as a poverty program per se. (The food stamp program is administered at the federal level by the Department of Agriculture, not the Department of Health & Human Services.) The program was spawned in the late sixties and early seventies, a time when the food industry was looking to increase its domestic market share without depressing prices.

What food stamps basically did was permit the food industry to transfer federal monies from the U.S. Treasury to private coffers via low income consumers. While some low income consumers benefited from the program in the form of increased purchasing power, this market analysis suggests that it would not have been created if it did not help increase or maintain profit margins.

When Ronald Reagan assumed office in January 1981, he vowed to "get the federal government off the backs of the American people." With the easing of regulations related to mergers and acquisitions, elements of the food industry could reap tremendous profits without expanding market share. The former president's rhetoric about government spending masked beginning of the decade of the greatest volume of mergers and acquisitions in American history. Mergers and acquisitions and sharply increased defense spending became the preferred means to increase or maintain profit margins.

When the Reagan administration decided to change the eligibility requirements for food stamps, the official explanation was that the program was not reaching the poorest of America's households. This explanation is curious in light of the fact that the administration terminated efforts to promote food stamps. It eliminated a national program which required states to increase the number of persons enrolled. In addition, the administration stepped up the penalizing of states which issued food stamps to ineligible persons. (Less than six percent of recipients are typically deemed ineligible.)

While the Reagan administration ended its efforts to promote food stamps, it failed to introduce reforms to simplify the eligibility process. To become eligible for food stamps, an individual must complete an application which

is detailed and somewhat difficult to understand. Staff resources to assist persons have been reduced since 1981.

For some eligible persons, these conditions provide a strong motivation to avoid seeking the stamps. For others who are willing to proceed with the arduous form completion process with little or no assistance, these facts increase the likelihood that they will be denied eligibility as a result of an improperly completed application, missing a deadline, or lacking necessary documentation.

It is interesting to note that only two-thirds of the persons eligible for food stamps are actually recipients. A person or family with a gross income at or below 130 percent of the official poverty line is eligible. In 1987, the poverty threshold for an individual was $5778 and $11,611 for a family of four. Individuals with a gross income of $7511 or less are eligible for food stamps. Families with a gross income of $15,094 or less are also eligible.

Analysts appear to be split on the impact of the Reagan administration's changes along ideological lines. Supporters of the former administration have contended that these changes have had little impact on food stamp eligibility. Opponents of that administration have contended that these changes have negatively impacted the poor. This analysis presents data which allows the reader to draw conclusions independent of ideological bias.

Data Analysis. In the District of Columbia and the 34 states served by affiliates of the National Urban League, the number of food stamp recipients declined by 1.3 million or 7.4 percent between 1980 and 1987, from 18.2 million to 16.9 million. This decline appears to have had a particularly deleterious impact on blacks. The greatest decline in the number of food stamp recipients has occurred in the Eastern and Southern Regions, the parts of the nation where blacks are concentrated.

Census Bureau estimates reveal that 28 percent of all blacks live in states which comprise the League's Eastern Region, while 44 percent live in states which comprise the Southern Region. Whereas 72 percent of the nation's blacks live in the Eastern and Southern Regions, the number of food stamp recipients in these regions declined by more than 1.8 million between 1980 and 1987.

While the number of food stamp recipients in states and territories served by Urban League affiliates declined by 7.4 percent, poverty increased significantly. The increase in poverty in the United States increased faster than its population growth. Whereas the nation's population increased 7.1 percent between 1980 and 1987, the number of persons living in poverty rose 10.5 percent.

The increase in poverty was especially pronounced amongst America's young. Persons under the age of eighteen increased by only three-fifths of one percent between 1980 and 1987. The percentage of those living in poverty increased twenty times faster (twelve percent).

People of color also bore much of the increase in the number of persons living in poverty. Persons of Hispanic origin were particularly impacted. Whereas the Hispanic population increased 42.6 between 1980 and 1987, the number of Hispanics living in poverty increased 55.9 percent.

Interestingly, the change in the number of black persons in poverty almost matched the change in black population growth. Black persons in poverty increased by 11.6 percent over the seven year period, while the black population increased by 11.2 percent.

The change in the number of white persons living in poverty actually exceeded the change in white population growth. The number of whites in poverty increased by 7.9 percent during the seven year period, while the white population increased by only 5.5 percent. This suggests that poverty in the white community was exacerbated by policy changes during the Reagan administration and changes in the composition of the workforce, particularly the shift from high paying blue collar manufacturing jobs to low paying service sector jobs.

The increase in the number of persons in poverty parallels an increase in the absolute number of families with an adjusted income of less than ten thousand dollars. When adjusted for inflation, the number of families with incomes under ten thousand dollars increased by almost 540,000 or 8.1 percent between 1980 and 1987. The number of Hispanic and black families with such incomes increased in absolute and income distribution terms.

For Hispanics, the number of families with incomes of less than $10,000 increased by 376,000 or 59.6 percent in absolute terms. The percentage of all Hispanics earning less than $10,000 went from 19.5 percent in 1980 to 22.0 percent in 1987.

For blacks, the number of families with incomes of less than $10,000 increased by 322,000 or 18.6 percent in absolute terms. The percentage of all blacks earning less than $10,000 edged up from 27.4 percent in 1980 to 28.5 percent in 1987.

The number of white families with incomes of less than $10,000 increased by 136,000 or 2.9 percent during the seven year period. The percentage of all whites earning less than

$10,000 dipped slightly, from 9.0 percent in 1980 to 8.7 percent in 1987.

As the poor grew in number, the number of food stamp recipients was rapidly declining in a number of states. The state of Florida led the nation in reduced recipients with 374,000. South Carolina reduced its food stamp rolls by 45 percent between 1980 and 1987. In all, the Southern Region witnessed a 911,000 person reduction in food stamp recipients. This reduction occurred while the region's number of black and white children living in poverty increased sharply.

However, not all Southern Region states reduced the number of food stamp recipients. The oil producing states of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana increased the number of recipients by 497,000. A sharp increase in recipients also occurred in the steel producing states of Illinois and Ohio in the Central Region (291,000). This tends to suggest some correlation between stagnation or decline in these industries and the rise in food stamp recipients.

There appears to be a similar correlation between states with a large agriculture sector and the rise in food stamp recipients. In the Central Region, the states of Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin witnessed an increase in food stamp recipients of some 185,000 between 1980 and 1987.

The Eastern Region was the only region where all states reduced their food stamp recipients over the seven year period. New Jersey had the greatest reduction in absolute terms with 244,000. The District of Columbia had the region's greatest reduction in percentage terms with a 41.1 percent decline. This reduction in recipients coincided with a sharp increase in poverty amongst children and working age adults in the region.

No discernible pattern appears evident in the Western Region, where the number of food stamp recipients increased slightly in the midst of strong economic growth. California and Washington increased their food stamp rolls by nearly 91,000, while Arizona and Oregon were reducing their rolls by about 25,000.

Implications for the Urban League Movement. When George Bush was inaugurated as President of the United States in January 1989, he called for a "kinder, gentler America." The President's proclamation did not imply a return to a period of perceived heavy spending on human services, but it did imply a shift away from the callous indifference and meanness of the Reagan years. President Bush called on Americans from all walks of life to work together to help those with the greatest need. The American government and its people were to embark on a partnership designed to reduce poverty,

misery, and suffering.

The President has followed his call with the creation of the Thousand Points of Light Foundation. The foundation salutes individuals and institutions who have worked tirelessly to reduce poverty or improve the quality of life in their communities. The foundation and the proclamation which preceded it has motivated many Americans to increase their commitment to human service.

Where President Bush has been lacking is in securing a federal commitment to strengthen the safety net. One can argue that the President has been following a policy of polite Reaganism when it comes to helping the nation's poor. While he speaks of a more compassionate country, President Bush has sought an increase in defense spending and a real (inflation-adjusted) decrease for many human service programs.

The President's budget calls for a rise in defense spending of eight billion dollars to $306 billion. Despite the end of the Cold War, the President proposes to spend a quarter of the budget on defense. At the same time, he is proposing a sharp reduction in spending for housing for the elderly, immunization programs, and energy assistance. While the President's budget calls for a three billion dollar increase in food stamp spending (from $15 billion in FY 1990 to $18 billion in FY 1991), we should again be reminded that the program's spending did not keep pace with inflation in the 1980s.

In addition, the Bush administration has demonstrated a reluctance to move beyond the status quo on the poverty front. While the President is to be commended for his decision to create an interagency group to study poverty, the Low Income Opportunity Board, one must be concerned that his higher-ranking Domestic Policy Council decided to table many of the group's proposals. While poverty continues to increase, the administration's policy is one of "keep playing with the same toys, but let's paint them a little shinier."

The President's reluctance to move on the poverty front is not completely his fault. Like most astute politicians, President Bush responds when pressure is exerted. The human service sector has not mobilized its resources to pressure the President to give serious consideration to deep cuts in defense spending. Instead, it has succumbed to his token gestures.

Unlike Ronald Reagan, George Bush is a diplomat. His experience as United States Ambassador to the United Nations and the People's Republic of China has helped him in the Oval Office. President Bush talks to people, including those from the human service sector. He even attends their conferences,

as he did last year when the National Urban League convened in Washington, D.C. While this makes him less of an ogre than his predecessor, it does not mask his unwillingness to move beyond established boundaries.

If the United States is to maintain its economic vitality and social stability in the next century, its current political leadership must be ready, willing, and able to move beyond established boundaries. America no longer needs to spend one-quarter of its federal budget on exotic weapon systems for a war in the European theater. What America does need is a revitalized human and physical infrastructure.

While American military spending soared from $134 billion in FY 1980 to $304 billion in FY 1989, the American educational system was mass producing illiterates for a technological society. While the military acquired the B-1 and Stealth bombers, bus and rail terminals became shelters for the homeless. While military spending was growing at an average annual rate of 9.5 percent, the nation's highways, bridges, and water systems were rapidly falling into a state of disrepair.

The American political community must learn an important lesson from the Soviet economy. For many years, the Soviet Union's leadership decided to produce new weapons systems at the expense of consumer products. Their obsession with military hardware eventually led to perestroika and significant social and political reforms. For all our talk about our virtuous democracy, we may be in need of some reforms of our own.

President Bush faces somewhat of a dilemma. He can continue to follow the conventional wisdom of the Republican Party and maintain high levels of defense spending or he can make history by cashing in on the peace dividend. Unless pressured, the President is likely to opt for the former. The Urban League Movement can play a significant role in exerting this pressure.

In January, Mr. John E. Jacob, the President of the National Urban League called upon the nation to utilize the peace dividend to implement a domestic Marshall Plan. The plan called for an immediate fifty percent reduction in defense spending, from $304 billion to $152 billion, slightly below the nation's defense budget in FY 1981. Two-thirds of this reduction would be targeted for deficit reduction. The remaining $50 billion would be used to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and to retool or better educate the workforce.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), defense expenditures are projected to rise some $53 billion between FY 1990 and FY 1995, from $298 billion to $351

billion. Total defense spending between fiscal years 1991 and 1995 is projected to total $1.64 trillion. At the same time, it is projected that $786 billion to $949 billion will be added to the national debt. (The former figure is the sum of the CBO's projected baseline deficits for FY 1991 to FY 1995. The latter figure is the sum of the CBO's projected baseline deficits for those fiscal years with the addition of debt servicing costs resulting from projected spending by the Resolution Trust Corporation.)

If a fifty percent reduction in defense spending were implemented over the next five years, $820.5 billion would be released for alternative uses. If two-thirds of that or $547.3 billion were to go for deficit reduction, a somewhat smaller $239 billion to $401.7 billion would be added to the national debt.

While slowing the rate of growth in the national debt (and indirectly helping finance the bailout of S&Ls), the remaining $273.2 billion from the peace dividend could finance a domestic Marshall Plan. Funding support for some existing infrastructure development and human service programs could be increased, while funds could be made available for new ones geared toward children, youth, and substance abuse treatment.

The League appears to have considerable constituent sentiment in support of a domestic Marshall Plan. A January 1990 survey conducted by Mark Clements Research, Inc. for **Black Enterprise** magazine revealed that 89.5 percent of all respondents believed some money currently spent for defense should be channeled to support social programs. The survey also revealed that 75.1 percent of its respondents believed the war on drugs should be funded through decreased military spending. Treating drug abusers and battling local pushers were identified as the most important aspect of this effort. More than four-fifths of the survey's respondents (81.3 percent) did not think that the Bush administration has put enough effort and money into the campaign against drugs.

Despite strong constituent sentiment, there has been surprisingly little movement on the domestic Marshall Plan since it was introduced at **The State of Black America** press conference eight months ago. The Urban League Movement and other human service organizations should come together to discuss its merits and its implications for the now-dormant war on poverty. Without such a coming together, the Bush administration will have little motivation to move beyond the token gestures already made.

President Bush has the opportunity to rewrite American history. As a skillful politician, however, he will not take advantage of that opportunity without weighing the odds. The President must be convinced that it is better to dramatically

reduce defense spending and thereby alter the course of American history than it is to go along with the established program. If this is to occur, the alternative program must be a credible one. It is up to the Urban League Movement and other human service organizations to mobilize their resources to develop such an alternative.

If the League is successful in achieving this end, it will be remembered as the catalyst behind the rewriting of American history. If we choose to continue to be placated by token gestures, we will be remembered as capitulators to the status quo. We can begin to mobilize to refine the domestic Marshall Plan as a means to renew the war on poverty or we can look forward to a twenty-first century of greater misery, frustration, and despair.

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A P P E N D I X

O N E :

FOOD STAMP DATA

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE IN THOUSANDS.

TABLE 1

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS BY STATES SERVED BY URBAN LEAGUE AFFILIATES, JULY 1980 TO JULY 1987

REGION	FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
Central	4,050.2	4,473.0	422.8	10.4
Eastern	4,965.2	4,028.7	- 936.5	-18.9
Southern	6,744.9	5,833.7	- 911.2	-13.5
Western	2,433.8	2,521.4	87.6	3.6
TOTAL	18,194.1	16,856.8	-1,337.3	- 7.4

TABLE 2

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS, CENTRAL REGION, JULY 1980 TO JULY 1987

STATE	FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
Illinois	936.9	1,054.4	117.5	12.5
Indiana	388.3	314.5	- 73.8	- 19.0
Kansas	98.4	119.0	20.6	20.9
Michigan	884.8	877.8	- 7.0	- 0.8
Minnesota	185.7	231.5	45.8	24.7
Missouri	354.8	374.2	19.4	5.5
Nebraska	72.1	100.2	28.1	39.0
Ohio	897.2	1,070.4	173.2	19.3
Wisconsin	232.0	331.0	99.0	42.7
TOTAL	4,050.2	4,473.0	422.8	10.4

TABLE 3

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS, EASTERN REGION,
JULY 1980 TO JULY 1987

STATE	FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
Connecticut	170.9	111.1	- 59.8	- 35.0
District of Columbia	100.4	59.1	- 41.3	- 41.1
Maryland	332.4	246.7	- 85.7	- 25.8
Massachusetts	452.9	296.2	- 156.7	- 34.6
New Jersey	616.8	372.7	- 244.1	- 39.6
New York	1,805.3	1,617.4	- 187.9	- 10.4
Pennsylvania	992.9	951.7	- 41.2	- 4.1
Rhode Island	89.5	59.0	- 30.5	- 34.1
Virginia	404.1	314.8	- 89.3	- 22.1
TOTAL	4,965.2	4,028.7	- 936.5	- 18.9

TABLE 4.

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS, WESTERN REGION,
JULY 1980 TO JULY 1987

STATE	FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
Arizona	221.3	202.3	-19.0	- 8.6
California	1,570.7	1,621.6	50.9	3.2
Colorado	172.9	194.4	21.5	12.4
Oregon	209.4	203.6	-5.8	- 2.8
Washington	259.5	299.5	40.0	15.4
TOTAL	2,433.8	2,521.4	87.6	3.6

TABLE 5.

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS, SOUTHERN REGION,
JULY 1980 TO JULY 1987

STATE	FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
Alabama	608.2	436.4	- 171.8	-28.2
Arkansas	305.8	231.9	- 73.9	-24.2
Florida	979.6	605.7	- 373.9	-38.2
Georgia	645.3	466.3	- 179.0	-27.7
Kentucky	484.3	469.6	- 14.7	- 3.0
Louisiana	583.2	722.5	139.3	23.9
North Carolina	592.3	399.9	- 192.4	-32.5
Oklahoma	215.3	277.0	61.7	28.7
South Carolina	499.2	274.0	- 225.2	-45.1
Tennessee	662.8	485.7	- 177.1	-26.7
Texas	1,168.9	1,464.7	295.8	25.3
TOTAL	6,744.9	5,833.7	- 911.2	- 13.5

A P P E N D I X

T W O :

INCOME, POPULATION, AND POVERTY DATA

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE IN THOUSANDS.

TABLE 1.

CHANGES IN MEDIAN INFLATION ADJUSTED INCOME, 1980 TO 1987, FOR HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE OR ETHNIC GROUP	MEDIAN INCOME		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	$30,182	$ 32,251	2,069	6.9
Blacks	18,196	19,168	972	5.3
Hispanics	21,127	21,769	642	3.0
Whites	31,447	33,725	2,278	7.2

TABLE 2.

A PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY INCOMES BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN,1980 AND 1987

INCOME DISTRIBUTION	RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP AND YEARS							
	All Races		Blacks		Hispanics		Whites	
	1980	1987	1980	1987	1980	1987	1980	1987
Number of Families	60,309	65,204	6,317	7,202	3,235	4.576	52,710	56,086
Percent Distribution Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$9,999 and Under	11.0	11.0	27.4	28.5	19.5	22.0	9.0	8.7
$10,000 to $14,999	9.4	8.6	15.3	12.1	15.1	14.2	8.7	8.1
$15,000 to $24,999	19.6	18.0	21.2	21.5	24.5	22.4	19.5	17.7
$25,000 to $34,999	19.3	17.0	15.4	13.3	17.0	15.1	19.8	17.5
$35,000 to $49,999	21.0	20.1	12.6	13.4	15.1	14.4	22.0	21.0
$50,000 and Over	19.7	25.2	8.0	11.2	8.8	11.8	21.0	26.8

Number of families is in thousands and incomes are adjusted for inflation.

TABLE 2A.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH INCOMES BELOW $9,999 OR LESS, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, 1980 TO 1987

RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP	YEAR		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	6,634.0	7,172.4	538.5	8.1
Black	1,730.9	2,052.6	321.7	18.6
Hispanic	630.8	1,006.7	375.9	59.6
White	4,743.9	4,879.5	135.6	2.9

TABLE 3.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY, 1980 TO 1987, BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE OR ETHNIC GROUP	PERSONS IN POVERTY		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	29,272	32,341	3,069	10.5
Blacks	8,579	9,577	998	11.6
Hispanics	3,491	5,442	1,951	55.9
Whites	19,699	21,249	1,550	7.9

TABLE 4.

CHANGES IN THE TOTAL POPULATION, 1980 TO 1987, BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE OR ETHNIC GROUP	POPULATION		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	225,027	240,978	15,951	7.1
Blacks	26,408	29,360	2,952	11.2
Hispanics	13,600	19,395	5,795	42.6
Whites	192,912	203,603	10,691	5.5

TABLE 5.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER 18 LIVING IN POVERTY, 1980 TO 1987, BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE OR ETHNIC GROUP	YOUNGSTERS IN POVERTY		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	11,543	12,963	1,420	12.3
Blacks	3,961	4,441	480	12.1
Hispanics	1,749	2,690	941	53.8
Whites	7,181	7,842	661	9.2

TABLE 6.

CHANGES IN THE POPULATION OF PERSONS UNDER 18, 1980 TO 1987, BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE OR ETHNIC GROUP	YOUNGSTERS UNDER 18		CHANGE	
	1980	1987	Number	Percent
All Races	62,914	63,290	376	0.6
Blacks	9,368	9,729	361	3.9
Hispanics	5,276	6,792	1,516	28.7
Whites	51,653	51,009	-643	- 1.2